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NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Norfolk, Virginia – Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announces the indictment of a cocaine, heroin trafficking, and money laundering organization. On December 9, 2002, a federal grand jury returned a 46 count indictment and issued arrest warrants for the organization's leader, Karl Eugene Moore Sr., age 40 ; his wife, Sheryl Denise Moore, age 41; and their son, Karl Moore Jr., age 20, all from Chesapeake, Virginia. Also named in the indictment as members of the conspiracy are Melvin Wilkerson, age 42, from Virginia Beach; Terrance Smith, age 42, from Virginia Beach; Ronald Highter, age 24, from Chesapeake, Virginia; Lavar Hyman, age 24, from Chesapeake, Virginia; and Javiro Hyman, age 27, from Chesapeake, Virginia.

All were indicted for conspiracy to distribute cocaine, cocaine base (crack), and heroin. Karl Moore Sr. and Sheryl Moore face an additional charge of conspiracy to commit money laundering. The indictment also seeks forfeiture of at least \$23,000,000.00 in profits from this drug conspiracy.

Today, in early morning raids, more than 100 law enforcement officials from the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Chesapeake Police Department, Norfolk Police Department, Portsmouth Police Department, Virginia Beach Police Department, and the United States Postal Service participated in the execution of federal search warrants.

The indictment and search warrants stem from a two-year investigation of the organization.

The investigation has revealed this organization is responsible for distributing over 600 kilo grams of cocaine and 20 kilo grams of heroin in the Hampton Roads area since 1998. The source cities for the drugs distributed by this organization are Los Angeles, Phoenix and New York City. Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration and local authorities made numerous purchases of crack cocaine during this investigation, and seized approximately \$85,000.00 in U.S. currency from Karl Moore Sr. and Karl Moore Jr. during trips to Phoenix.

The organization operated primarily from the Chesapeake home of Karl Moore Sr. and his wife, Sheryl. The drug distribution occurred locally in Chesapeake, Norfolk and Portsmouth. As provided in the forfeiture count of the indictment, their home and personal vehicles, which include a 2002 Cadillac Escalade, a 1998 Lincoln Navigator, a 2000 Jaguar and a Mustang Convertible, are now subject to forfeiture to the government.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Everhart will be prosecuting this case.